



Hatcher Pass East Management Area & Summit Lake

Winter Conditions Report

Current Date: March 27, 2015

Area	Snowmobile Status	New Snow	Avg. Snow Depth	Comments
Gold Mint Lot	OPEN	0"	23"-26"	Snowpack is experiencing thaw-freeze cycles, variable density and depth OPEN WATER IN CREEKS
Gold Mint Trail	NON-MOTORIZED	0"	23"-26"	Trail is hard packed. PLEASE REMOVE PET WASTE!
Archangel Trailhead	NON-MOTORIZED	0"	26"-30"	CLOSED TO SNOWMACHINES Groomed to mile 2.3
Archangel Valley-Reed Lakes	OPEN	0"	30"-36"	Variable snow depths and snow density OPEN WATER IN CREEKS
Fishhook Lot	OPEN	0"	26"-30"	Extreme variation in snow pack, large amounts of vegetation showing. Be cautious of multi-users.
Independence Mine	NON-MOTORIZED	0"	35"-37"	Ski trails groomed on the road, around mine buildings, and East Meadow by contract groomer.
Summit Lake	OPEN	0"	0"-40"+	Extremely windblown and variable , large areas of bare ground and visible rocks WIND SLABS
Mile 16 and Paradise Ski Runs	NON-MOTORIZED	0"	26"Upper 18"Lower	Parking at Mile 16 and 12 only-NO TURNAROUNDS ON ROAD. Obvious melting, Be cautious of moose.

. ****Average snow depth recorded is uncompressed.** Snowmobile openings are based on the snowpack's ability to protect underlying vegetation and include: depth measurements, snow density, wind loading, temperatures, forecast, terrain, topography, elevation, snow base and ice conditions. River and lake ice crossing safety is not implied and at the risk of the individual.

Conditions Update: Overall conditions are poor. Temperatures and solar radiation have taken their toll on the snow this past week. Thaw freeze cycles and intense sun resulting in surface and sub-surface melting have drastically altered the snow pack and the appearance of Hatcher Pass. The snow on South and Southwest aspects is dramatically thin and has gone isothermal; in addition most of the snow below 2000' is sticky "mashed potato" type snow. There are large areas of vegetation and rocks exposed at all elevations. Motorized users are asked to remain on groomed trails until reaching backcountry destinations to preserve the snowpack. Conditions are being closely monitored and motorized closures are imminent unless a significant weather change occurs.

A \$5 day-use fee or 2015 annual parking pass is required at most trailheads throughout the park. Please respect private properties adjacent to park land. **All snowmobiles must have their current registration tags displayed when used on public lands.**

Please check the Alaska State Parks website or call 745-8950 for current conditions. Additional snow and weather information can be found at the Independence Mine Snow-tel website at: <http://ambcs.org/SiteViewer.shtml> or Marmot Mountain weather station website at: http://www.cnjaic.org/wx/wx_marmot.php

For avalanche information: <http://hatcherpassavalanchecenter.org/> . The Hatcher Pass Area is an AVALANCHE HAZARD AREA. Be sure and take your beacons, shovels and probes with you and be knowledgeable of their use.

The Department of Natural Resources has created a web-based report for recreational user conflicts in the East Hatcher Pass Management Area. To access the report go to: http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/planning/mgtplans/hatcher/incident_rpt/